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I ONCE READ OF AN ENGLISH traveling salesman who devoted all his spare time to a thorough and systematic reading of the Encyclopedia Britannica. Starting with the volume A to And, he read that carefully, page by page, and then the next, and so on. Wherever he went on his trips he carried a volume with him, and in his room each night he read a few pages, beginning where he left off before. He never completed the job, for he died at the age of 70, but he enjoyed the satisfaction that comes from sticking faithfully to a task that has once been undertaken. How much enlightenment he derived from such a course of reading the narrator does not say.



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A GOOD CYCLOPEDIA IS A HANDY think to have around. I know I could make better use of mine than I do, and I suppose that is true of most others. I should consider it a waste of time to try to read a cyclopedia through, for any such work contains an immense quantity of information in which I am not interested, and which would be of no value to me if I had it tucked away in my head. There is a lot of information that no one wants to carry around with him. With respect to most of it the important thing is to have some place where one can find it if he happens to need it, and a good cyclopedia is invaluable as a storehouse of knowledge upon which one may draw according to his need.

GREATLY AS I VALUE THE CYCLOPEDIA, I have certain grievances against its makers. In an article on some subject on which I am trying to get information I am apt to find a quotation in Greek, or Hebrew, and I have even found them in Egyptian heiroglyphics, all without translation. As I have, unfortunately, no knowledge of any foreign language, those untranslated quotations are meaningless to me, and I maintain that the cyclopedia people are not playing fair when they don't print their stuff in plain English.

NECESSARILY THE CYCLOPEDIA contains much that is intelligible only to the scholar. There are articles on various

branches of science in which formulas and other expressions must be used which mean nothing to the average reader, and the work must serve the professional as well as the lay reader, but I submit that where a foreign-language quotation is used its translation should also be given, so that the lay reader may know what it's about.

ANOTHER GRIEVANCE THAT I have against writers of cyclopedia articles as well as a good many other writers is their vagueness in the matter of dates. We may be told that some piece of Chinese pottery belongs to the Ming dynasty, or that a necklace found in an Egyptian tomb is of the XII dynasty. The man on the street may have a rather intelligent interest in pottery or necklaces, but may not know whether of those dynasties existed 3,000 or 10,000 years ago. Perhaps he would like to know without having to dig for the information. It would be a very simple thing to append the approximate dates.

THE WRITER OF A REMARKABLY fine article on ancient Egypt in the current Geographic has done better than most writers have done when dealing with such subjects. With some exceptions he has coupled references to dynastic periods with dates, so that, as he goes along, the reader can have a fair idea of what general period in the world's history is being described. In addition to its better handling of dates the article is interesting in its depiction of the ancient Egyptian as a human being rather than as a mythical creature unrelated to ourselves.

HAS THE FROST SETTLED THE weather, or did it freeze because the weather was settled? Anyway, here's hoping for one of our glorious Octobers.

A QUESTION PROPOUNDED IN THE Haskin column the other day was "During prohibition how much alcohol did beer contain?" To which Mr. Haskin answered "Only one-half of one per cent." That's what he thinks.

ONE OF SHAKESPEARE'S CHARACTERS told of "sermons in stones, books in the running brooks." Living in this period he would have found stories in old photographs. I have before me now a photograph taken in Park River about 40 years ago. It is very much like thousands of other pictures that were taken about that time, yet it tells its own story, a story which stirs the memory of one who lived at that time which in some ways seems so distant, but a story which would scarcely be intelligible to younger persons without some interpretation.



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The picture is that of the front of the Hendrickson hardware store in Park River, with the usual display of forks, shovels and other hardware items. Attached to the building is a lean-to buggy shed, with buggy ready for service. The automobile was yet to come. A barefooted boy is perched on a mower near by, among a collection of agricultural implements.

\* \* \*

A SIGN ON THE CORNER BUILDING indicates that the law office of H. A. Libby is upstairs and may be reached by an outside stairway. Seated at one of the office windows is a figure which has been identified as that of Mr. Libby himself. He practiced many years in Park River before moving to Grand Forks.

\* \* \*

THE PLANK SIDEWALK IS ELEVATED several inches above the ground, a great convenience for those entering or alighting from carriages and wagons. The hardware sign extends from the building across the sidewalk, its outer end supported by a post which also served as a hitching post. The post is bound spirally with strap-iron to prevent horses from chewing it.

\* \* \*

THAT PICTURE WAS TAKEN BY a photographer named Ball, who described himself as "Bald Headed Ball," probably for excellent reasons. Not only was Ball a photographer, he was more or less a lit-

erary person. On the back of the photo is printed a parody on the familiar old song, "The Little Old Log Cabin in the Lane," of which the author thought enough to have it copyrighted. It is entitled "The Little Old Sod Shanty on the Claim." That title, or one much like it, was used for another parody of the same song, but which was of a sentimental nature. There is nothing sentimental about Ball's verses. The chorus runs:

"The hinges are of leather and the windows have no glass;

"While the roof boards let the howling blizzards in;

"And I hear the hungry gopher as he sneaks up through the grass

"Round my little old sod shanty on the claim."

\* \* \*

THERE HAS JUST BEEN ISSUED BY the Greater North Dakota association a Directory of North Dakota Industries and Manufacturers, which is just what the title implies. Copies of it may be obtained from the association for \$2 a copy. The directory lists industries by classifications and counties. The front and back covers picture some representative industries, including the Russell Milling Co. plant in Grand Forks. A casual scrutiny would indicate the volume as a valuable addition to the reference works of the state.

\* \* \*

FOR SOME TIME CHICAGO HAS had but one morning newspaper of general circulation. That is the Chicago Tribune, published by Colonel R. R. McCormick, strong opponent of the Roosevelt administration and emphatically opposed to involvement of the United States in the present war. The financial Chicago Journal of Commerce, also in the morning field, naturally has a limited circulation. Now there is to be another morning newspaper, for Marshall Field, grandson of the original Marshall Field, is financing a new paper that will start publication probably before the end of 1941. Its name has not been announced; in fact, about the only thing known about it is that it will be pro-New Deal, as is Field's New York newspaper, PM. Though bitterly criticized by many of its readers, the Chicago Tribune has been an outstanding success financially, and has the largest circulation of any "full sized" newspaper in the United States—more than a million copies daily.



WHILE ENJOYING A BRIEF VACATION in a hospital last week I heard a man moaning. The sounds were not loud, or continuous, coming, I supposed, from



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some remote room whose door was closed. But from time to time I could catch that sound of suffering. My sympathies were aroused, also my curiosity. Some poor fellow, I thought, was painfully waiting the ministrations of a physician. Perhaps he was the victim of an automobile accident and was awaiting an operation. Or perhaps the operation had been performed and he was slowly and painfully recovering consciousness. Anyway, I felt sorry for him and would have helped him if I could, for I was fairly comfortable myself. At other times I, too, had suffered, and a fellow feeling makes us wondrous kind.

\* \* \*

THEN I NOTICED THAT MINGLED with the moans were occasional sounds of static, and I discovered that I was listening, not to the moans of a suffering patient, but to some radio crooner who was entertaining the world with his version of a supposedly popular song. Apparently one of my neighbors had his radio turned on just loud enough for me to catch occasional bits of what was coming over the air. My curiosity was satisfied; my sympathy vanished; I plugged my ears and went to sleep.

\* \* \*

I HAVE JUST BEEN LOOKING OVER a collection of photographs assembled by Don V. Moore probably 35 years ago. Don came to Grand Forks shortly after the turn of the century to operate the Grand Forks branch of the Lewis commission house. He was the first secretary of the Commercial club, secretary of the fair association and a vigorous promoter of Grand Forks interests. He left here to operate a large ranch in Texas and so far as I know, he is still on that job.

\* \* \*

PRESUMABLY THE COLLECTION of photographs was intended for some publicity period. They are of Grand Forks buildings and street and river scenes. The automobile had not yet arrived, and horse-drawn wagons and buggies are seen on the streets. There was no down-town street railway, but the line connecting the city and University had been built and its single car is shown standing at the end of the line at First avenue north and Third street. One river picture shows the Red river at flood stage, with small buildings on the flats afloat and the water within a few feet of the DeMers avenue bridge. That was the old swing bridge which preceded the present Sorlie Memorial bridge, and another picture shows the bridge swung, although apparently for practice only, as the water in that picture is fairly low. The river dredge and other units of the government fleet are shown, but there is no evidence of other craft on the river.

\* \* \*

AN INTERESTING GROUP OF PICTURES shows a Northern Pacific freight locomotive derailed and tilted over on its side. The accident occurred on the

low track along the river. I have some recollection of such an incident due to soft track. Perhaps some railroad man could date the picture. The University campus is shown with its two or three buildings. The Presbyterian church was then a peculiar structure with a little main building to which additions had been made until it was almost surrounded. In one street scene there is just a glimpse of a corner of the old Herald building which was demolished during the past summer.

\* \* \*

THERE IS ALWAYS A CERTAIN DEGREE of interest in looking over such old photographs, and I wonder if there isn't an opportunity for someone to perform a useful public service in the collection, classification, indexing and dating of old-time pictures of Grand Forks. There are in existence innumerable pictures illustrative of the appearance and life of Grand Forks through all the years, but when a given picture is wanted, who knows where to find it? A collection could be made and stored, for instance, in the public library, which would be invaluable in future years. Then, when someone wanted to know what Grand Forks looked like say in 1890, what the people were doing then, and how they did it, the information would be immediately available.



THE WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND cites numerous cases of abuse of the franking privilege by members of congress, among them Senator Nye of



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North Dakota. Abuses of that privilege have been common for years and of late they have reached scandalous proportions. Intended to facilitate communication between the member of congress and his constituents on matters of immediate public concern, the frank has been used not only to promote the personal interests of the member, but has been loaned to private societies and groups to carry on organized propaganda inspired by interests hostile to the United States and engaged in obstructing the operations of its government.

\* \* \*

EXCEPT FOR BRIEF PERIODS DURING which it was suspended, the franking privilege has been enjoyed in some form by members of congress ever since the early days of the Continental congress. The original provision covered not only communications sent by the member of congress but those sent to him, but the privilege could be exercised only while congress was in session.

\* \* \*

A SIMILAR ARRANGEMENT WAS in force in Canada during the early days of the dominion. During a session of parliament, and then only, letters addressed by a member to his constituents or from them to him were carried free of charge. The basis of the practice, here and in Canada alike, was the theory that during sessions of the legislative body there should be the most complete freedom of communication between member and constituents. I do not know whether or not the Canadian provisions have been changed, as they have been in this country.

\* \* \*

I RECALL ALSO A PECULIAR INCIDENT of those early days with respect to Canadian parliamentary salaries. Then, instead of receiving a regular salary the member of the dominion parliament received a sort of honorarium in the sum of \$1,000 per session. Usually there was one session a year. In case of unexcused absence, however, there was deducted from his pay a stated sum per day of his absence. An election in one district was contested. The member who appeared to be elected took his seat and served through about half of the session when his opponent was seated and served for the rest of the session. When they came to figure up compensation it was found that under the law the first man was entitled to \$1,000 less the statutory deduction for the time served by his successor and the second man had coming \$1,000 less deduction for the time served by his predecessor. The per diem provided in the law was such that neither of them was entitled to anything.

\* \* \*

WELL, HOPKINS IS DOWN OFF the Devil's Tower, and I haven't been a bit thrilled, or excited, or enthused over his escapade. I see that the park authorities do not intend to prosecute him for undertaking such a feat without permission, which is probably just as well, although a couple of weeks in the jug wouldn't have been a bad finale to such a start.

\* \* \*

THE PARACHUTE LANDING ON

the tower is now admitted to have been a publicity stunt intended to advertise Hopkins and his professional parachute jumping. There are numerous forms of publicity stunts which may be considered at least permissible, but the list of permissible does not include those which involve in a dangerous or otherwise undesirable way others than the person immediately interested.

\* \* \*

IF HOPKINS HAD LANDED ON the tower from his parachute and then climbed down, as others have done, he would have been credited with a rather skillful job of parachuting, and a certain degree of mild interest would have been aroused thereby. But he either lost his nerve or deliberately sought to create a sensation, and began calling for help. Nobody wanted to have him starve to death on top of the rock, or fall and break his neck, therefore rescue plans were undertaken involving scores or hundreds of people and costing somebody a lot of money.

\* \* \*

BEFORE THE HOPKINS STUNT some 25 men had climbed that rock and climbed down again, without any blaring of trumpets or beating of drums. Eight more men climbed up, helped Hopkins down and got down safely themselves. My guess is that after the job was done the impulse of those climbers would be to give Hopkins a swift kick in the pants before they turned him loose.

AN ARTICLE FROM BISMARCK last week recorded the death of C. B. Little, prominent Bismarck banker and for many years a member of the state senate. The article credited Colonel Little with the longest service of any state senator, which is not quite correct, as that honor belongs to Senator Judson LaMoure, of Pembina. Little and LaMoure were both elected to the first state senate in November 1889. They served continuously and efficiently, side by side, for many years. Little was last elected in November, 1904 and his last term ended December 31, 1908. LaMoure's last election was in November, 1908 and his term expired December 31, 1912.



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\* \* \*

DURING THEIR LONG SERVICE TOGETHER the two men were fast friends, though as different in manner and temperament as two men could be. Often they clashed over public measures, but their mutual regard remained unshaken. For many of the legislators the evening game of poker provided relaxation and occasionally a little loose change. Little and LaMoure were fond of the game and could often be found testing their wits and their luck against each other. One morning as Little sat in the hotel lobby gossiping with several friends before leaving for the capitol, LaMoure approached him and asked: "Have you any money about you, Little?" Little took out his pocketbook and from it extracted a \$10 bill. "That's all I have with me," he said; "You're welcome to it if it will be of any use." "Oh," said LaMoure, "I don't want it now. I just wanted to make sure that you had some. I'll get it from you tonight."

\* \* \*

A CORRESPONDENT ASKS TO BE informed when Thanksgiving day will be observed in North Dakota this year. The date will be November 20, the third Thursday in the month. Since Thanksgiving day became a regular national institution the last Thursday in Novem-

ber was uniformly set aside for that purpose until 1940. There is no federal legislation making Thanksgiving a national holiday, but president after president has by proclamation recommended that such a day be set aside and has named the customary date. Governors of states have issued their separate proclamations, conforming to the presidential recommendation. In 1940 President Roosevelt announced during the summer that he would advance the date by one week, advancing as his reason that the retail trade would benefit by having a wider spread between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

\* \* \*

IN SPITE OF INNUMERABLE PROtests the president adhered to his purpose and designated the third Thursday in November in his proclamation. Confusion resulted. Governors of some states followed the president's proclamation and others stuck to the original date. Arrangements for family gatherings, important sports events and school holidays were disrupted. This year the president has announced that he will fix November 20 as the date for the holiday this year, but that in 1942 he will revert to the traditional date.

\* \* \*

NORTH DAKOTA'S STATE LAW provides for the observance of Thanksgiving day on such date as may be named by the president in his proclamation, so that the date of our Thanksgiving is automatically fixed for the day chosen by the president. Steps are under way in congress for enactment of a law making the last Thursday in November a national Thanksgiving day, which would avoid repetition of the confusion that has been created.

\* \* \*

A NOTE IN THE THIRTY-YEARS-ago section for Tuesday says: "Less than one-third of the crops in this area were threshed as continued rains hindered farmers from getting into their fields." That would be in 1911. When one is asked if he has ever known a season as dry or as wet, as cold or as hot, as peculiar in any way, as the present, it is fairly safe to answer "yes," although one may not remember just when it was.



LEON HENDERSON, THE NATION'S price-fixing mogul, has a pair of nice new suspenders, according to a Washington story. Seeing a picture of Henderson wearing a belt, a suspender manufacturer thought the official's trousers needed hitching up and sent him a pair of suspenders which Henderson wore for his next picture. I wonder if the manufacturer had heard of a Washington incident of many years ago.



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AT A CABINET meeting, according to the yarn, the members were talking idly of this and that, there being no emergency confronting the nation just then. Conversation turned on unrealized ambitions. One secretary told of a boyhood ambition to go west and fight Indians. Another had hoped to be a circus acrobat. Others had entertained hopes that had never been fulfilled. One man said that it had been the ambition of his life to own two good pairs of suspenders at the same time so that he could change trousers without having to fuss with suspenders.

ONE AFTER ANOTHER OF THE cabinet officers confessed that he had shared that ambition and had never realized it. The story came to the attention of a suspender manufacturer, and presently each cabinet member received a box containing two perfectly good pairs of suspenders, with the manufacturers' compliments. Thus one set of ambitions was realized.

Query: Might the manufacturer who gave Henderson the suspenders have been thinking about anything like price-fixing?

P. S. When long years ago I read that story about the cabinet members and

their suspenders I thought it was a good yarn, and, having had a similar unrealized ambition myself, and knowing no suspender manufacturer, I went straight to the clothing store and bought me two pairs of suspenders at the same time. They wore out long ago.

MRS. RAY KLEIN, WHO WAS HELEN Norman, of Grand Forks, and is now principal of the DeMores high school at Medora, is greatly impressed with the scenic beauty of Medora and its surroundings, and she hopes that more North Dakotans will become acquainted with that locality and its colorful history. Of a visit to the famous DeMores chateau she writes:

"YESTERDAY WE WERE ABOUT TO have some work on "North Dakota Appreciation Week" and decided to go to the De Mores Chateau for part of our program. I had never been there so looked forward to it with great enthusiasm. But never dreamed of the real thrill that was in store for us when we got there. Who should greet us but the Duke of Vallombrosa, Louis De Mores, the eldest son of the Marquis, who was there for a short visit. He shook hands with me and said a few words to the students. He is a very retiring man but interesting. I had been told that he would not make any appearances but I invited him to visit school and to my surprise and pleasure he accepted. He came up in the afternoon and spoke to the assembly of all the school. He told the students how much Medora meant to him. It is very dear to him and he is so pleased with the improvements that the State Historical Society has made there. He also has donated two lots to the Congregational Church so that there will be two churches now in Medora. He will be here in the spring for the Grand Opening of the Chateau."

THE MEDORA TERRITORY IS FULL of material interesting to the student of the state's early history. And there are few localities in the state with which there are not associated bits of actual history of real interest or fanciful legends which were current among the Indians for generations, perhaps for centuries. In respect to actual settlement and political organization North Dakota is a new state, but white men were exploring its rivers, trapping its beaver and hunting its buffalo at a time when it was completely unknown to the people living along the Atlantic seaboard. Some of the history of those early years has been recorded, but there is still a wealth of untouched material which could serve as the basis for real history or for fascinating creative literature.



I EXAMINED THAT SAMPLE OF wheat that was sent in the other day from the farm of John Reese of Humboldt, Minnesota, and which weighed 59 pounds per bushel and graded No. 1, dark northern after standing in the shock through nearly two months of the rainiest weather ever known in the northwest. I am not able to pass on weights or grades, but the grain was hard, plump and of good color, showing no signs of having been subjected to unfavorable weather.



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### THE YIELD FROM

that field was unusual—50 bushels per acre—and that is explained by the fact that the tract was a small one, only 2.7 acres, and of virgin timber soil. That does not explain the quality of the grain after weeks of rain. For that there is but one explanation, properly built shocks. On occasional drives through the country this fall I have seen many fields of shocked grain, but I do not recall one where the shocks were properly built to withstand weather.

THE CAREFUL FARMER OF YEARS ago always built the shocks with the bundles firmly planted and double-capped them, breaking down the cap sheaves so as to make the shock practically waterproof. Because in many cases that was not done, the crop on hundreds of thousands of acres has suffered great damage, far more than enough to pay the additional cost of proper shocking. Some weeks ago I remarked that stacking in this territory had become practically a lost art. Shocking is not quite as tricky as building a stack, but it is a job that calls for care and some experience. That, too, seems to have become a lost art. Experience on that Humboldt farm shows what it means.

IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1941 the precipitation at Grand Forks, 25.02 inches, was the greatest ever recorded for a similar period since the weather station was established here in 1890. Normal precipitation here for 12 months is a fraction less than 20 inches. Certainly this has been a wet year — for Grand Forks, for North Dakota gener-

ally, and for northern Minnesota. The forecaster who prophesied a wet year can say "I told you so." But how about the fellow who predicted a dry year? He, also, can point with pride to the verification of his predictions. Down east they have had one of the driest seasons on record. Wells have failed and farmers are hauling water. Crops in many sections are ruined. Streams have shrunk and in many cases have disappeared altogether. Students at Dartmouth have been instructed to abstain from tub or shower baths. Sponge baths will have to do. In Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, the home of the Amish, handbills have been distributed ordering the inhabitants not to water their lawns and urging housewives to postpone the usual Monday washing.

WHILE THE RECENT HURRICANE swept the Bahamas, the Duke of Windsor, governor of the islands, and the duchess were rustivating on the duke's ranch in Alberta. There is not the slightest evidence that they had advance notice of the hurricane and timed their vacation so as to dodge it. Any reports to that effect are without foundation.

WHEN EDWARD WAS PRINCE OF Wales he was an ardent steeplechaser, and in jumping hedges and ditches he had some nasty falls. His falls were so numerous that he became the subject of a good deal of ribbing on account of his alleged poor horsemanship. Actually, according to many who ought to know, the prince was an excellent horseman, but his enthusiasm led him to ride hell-bent and take chances which most other riders dared not take. Hence his high percentage of falls. His equerry was once asked why the prince fell so often. "He doesn't fall," replied the equerry, indignantly. "When his horse falls he gets off. Wot would you 'ave 'im do?" Fair enough question.

**NOT ONLY NORTH DAKOTA LEGION-**naires but the people of North Dakota generally have reason for satisfaction in the selection of Lynn Stambaugh as national commander of the American Legion. That distinction has been conferred on a resident of North Dakota who merits it because of the interest which he has shown in the affairs of the Legion, the sound judgment which he has shown in Legion councils, his fine personal character and his uncompromising patriotism.

\* \* \*

#### **STAMBAUGH'S SELECTION**

for this important position is peculiarly fortunate for North Dakota just at this time. For many months. Senator Nye has been traveling up and down the country making speeches which are calculated to discourage and obstruct the defense program on which the nation is engaged. He has supported a theory of neutrality which is utterly foreign to American sentiment and he has advocated for the United States an isolation from world affairs which is an utter impossibility. Those who have heard him, or have read his speeches, know that Senator Nye hails from North Dakota, and quite naturally many of them attribute to the people of North Dakota the sentiments which their senator expresses. Without any justification whatever North Dakota has become known in many quarters as an isolationist state, hostile to all that is being done to curb the menace of Hitlerism, and even suspected of leanings toward the philosophy of which Hitler is the exponent.

\* \* \*

**NOW THERE IS HEARD THE VOICE OF** another North Dakotan, a man whose position at the head of a great patriotic organization commands attention and respect, and who stands squarely on the platform adopted by the Legion. When Lynn Stambaugh speaks he speaks for the Legion. He also speaks for North Dakota, and the fact that he does so will counteract in some measure the ill that has been done the state by the wide publicity that has been given the statements of Senator Nye.

\* \* \*

**IN HIS ADDRESS AT THE GREAT GATHER-**ing in his honor in Fargo on Thursday Commander Stambaugh spoke on the issues of the day with clarity refreshing in these days of confused thinking. He brushed aside the theory



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that because Hitler is fighting Communistic Russia and the United States is opposed to Communism, our opposition to Hitler should cease. He made clear the fact that Hitler's present conflict with his former partner does not modify in any degree the menace of Hitlerism to the United States nor remove from this nation the necessity to destroy that menace. His address was a stimulation to North Dakotans and a reassurance to all America.

\* \* \*

#### **DOUBTLESS MANY READERS WOULD BE**

startled to read of the announcement by the priorities board of the broad powers which the board intends to exercise and which it is authorized to exercise under the law. In a country in which, notwithstanding some annoying meddlesomeness on the part of governmental agencies, individuals have been reasonably free to conduct their personal affairs pretty much as they choose, there is something approaching the sensational in the announcement that practically all of our activities are to be subjected to the decision of the priorities board with respect to their relation to the defense program.

\* \* \*

**THE AUTHORITY OF THE BOARD IS TO** be applied to every form of manufacture and construction and the board will prohibit any work of a private or public nature which would needlessly withdraw from the defense program materials essential to the prosecution of that program. The fact that such authority is to be exercised demonstrated how deeply we have become involved in a war economy without being technically at war. It demonstrated, too, how misleading was the prospect held before us of being able to carry on a major defense program without material sacrifice or inconvenience.

\* \* \*

**PRESUMABLY THE EXERCISE OF THIS** authority will not be as drastic as the announcement may have led some to suspect. Half the people of the United States will not be required to stand twiddling their thumbs while the other half are making planes and tanks and cannon. The people must still have food and shelter and fuel. There are certain basic requirements which must be met and reason must be exercised in the apportionment of material for various purposes. But we are entering upon a phase of our existence in which every enterprise upon which we wish to engage must be subjected to the test of necessity. And it is better that this should be done now than that it should be postponed until we are in the middle of a shooting war.



WHEN THE PRESIDENT LAST year changed the date of Thanksgiving without notice he introduced an element of confusion into the observance of that historic holiday. But what he did to Thanksgiving was as nothing in comparison with what has been done to Halloween. Time was when observance of Halloween was confined to the last night of October, and it was possible then to be on guard against the pranks of elves, pixies and other mischievous creatures. But the observance of Halloween has been extended until now nobody knows when it begins or ends. Already, three weeks before the accepted date, Grand Forks youngsters have been perpetrating acts ranging from minor mischief to actual destruction of property, and if the practice of some recent years is to be followed the depredations will continue through most of November.



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THOSE WHO PREFER A QUIET LIFE for at least some of the time, face the prospect of a Halloween season lasting from the Fourth of July until Christmas, and apparently nothing can be done about it. Mention of police to the youngsters is quite likely to bring forth the cynical retort: "Ah, cops! They won't do nuthin' to you!"

IN MODERN TIMES HALLOWEEN IS associated with the festival of All Saints' day as observed on November 1 by some of the Christian churches. Actually it has a background which extends back far beyond the Christian era. Some of our popular Halloween customs—not the destructive ones—have been passed on to us from the days of the Druids who flourished in Britain before the time of Julius Caesar, and there are still remote localities in the Scottish highlands where the ancient custom is followed of building fires on mountain tops to frighten away the spirits which are supposed to be abroad on that autumn evening. One ceremony sometimes observed at those fires is for each person at the fire to place a marked pebble in the embers of the fire. Next

morning, if one of the pebbles is found out of place that is accepted as an omen of the death of that person within the year.

GRAND FORKS HAS 25 INCHES OF rain during the first nine months of 1941. Many localities in the state had more. With that quantity of water falling harvest operations were seriously impeded. North Dakota's rainfall, even in this wet year, has been but a small fraction of the rainfall to which many other parts of the world are subjected regularly, year after year. In many parts of the temperate zone the annual precipitation is more than 100 inches and in certain parts of the tropics even that downpour is exceeded.

WHEN ONE OBSERVES THE EFFECT on local industries of a mere two feet of rain in nine months, he is inclined to wonder how they manage to get anything done where they have 10 or 12 feet of rain a year. I suppose the answer is that in those countries of excessive rainfall it rains harder when it does rain and they have seasons when it doesn't rain at all. I am told, too, that along some parts of our own Pacific coast, where during the wet seasons it rains more or less every day, the people go about their affairs just as if it were not raining. They call it a "dry" rain, because it's going to clear up in a few minutes.

I THINK IF I INTENDED TO BUILD a house just now I wouldn't start operations until I had all the stuff on the ground. You never can tell where or when this priority thing will hit you. And then, when I had all the material ready, who knows that they won't apply priority to labor, and I'd be left with nobody to put the stuff together.

AS I LOOK FROM MY WINDOW I see an elm tree with half of its foliage gone and the rest turned a beautiful golden brown. Across the corner is another elm, similar, to all appearance, which is as green as in June. Wherever there are trees such differences between specimens of the same species are to be seen. Are trees individual, like human beings?



SAM H. WILSON, COUNTY TREASURER of Bottineau county, sends me two specimens of unusual vegetable freaks. One is what started out to be a hill of potatoes growing within the two severed halves of a large potato. This freak was found in the potato cellar of R. C. Smith in the Turtle Mountains. Apparently the large potato had been cut for planting but was left with the two halves not quite separated, and presumably it had been overlooked at planting time. But, planted or not, the potato undertook to perform its duty. Now, between the withered halves of the parent potato, are six little potatoes, the largest nearly an inch in diameter.



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THE OTHER CURIOSITY COMES from the farm of J. D. O'Keefe, of Lansford, one of Bottineau's county commissioners. The central feature is a perfect ear of ripe flint corn, of normal size. Around it, and spring from its base, are nine little ears about the size of one's finger. All are well filled with plump, ripe kernels. For some reason both potatoes and corn seem to be more given to freakish growths than most other plants are.

IT ISN'T MANY YEARS SINCE FARM and garden magazines were featuring articles descriptive of a new method of growing potatoes, a method which some enthusiasts thought would supplant the usual practice of growing the tubers out of doors. The walls of a dark cellar were lined with shelves, one above the other and on each shelf was spread a layer of straw. Potatoes were spread on the straw a few inches apart and were covered with another layer of straw. The straw was sprinkled occasionally so as to keep it slightly moist and in due time the shelves would be filled with incredible numbers of new potatoes of marketable size. Undoubtedly potatoes can be grown that way, but the method did not prove practicable on a commercial scale.

PIONEER FAMILIES OFTEN GREW their first crop of potatoes on the virgin sod during the first summer of occupancy.

The method was the essence of simplicity. Cut potatoes were dropped into the shallow furrow made by the breaking plow. The next round of the plow covered them with inverted sod. Usually the planting was done in alternate furrows so as to give the plants plenty of room. Presently potato shoots appeared above the surface the plants grew and new tubers were formed. No cultivation was needed, and there was no spraying, for the bugs and other pests had not yet arrived. In the fall, when the plants had died down, the partly decomposed sod was turned back, and there lay the new potatoes, usually neither very large nor very numerous, but of moderate size, smooth, clean, and of excellent quality.

MENTION IN THIS COLUMN OF AN old picture of an overturned Northern Pacific locomotive brings a letter from Charles Keller of East Grand Forks, who writes that he was the conductor on that train at the time of the accident, which occurred April 4, 1893. Evidently my description of the picture was not sufficiently clear to identify the accident, which was different from that which Mr. Keller recalls.

OF THE 1893 ACCIDENT MR. KELLER writes that it was caused by the bulging of the track. There had been many washouts along the line that spring. The engine plunged into the water and Fireman Harris was drowned when he jumped. Engineer Newlove, forced out of the cab, climbed to safety. Seven cars of Canadian wheat in transit went into the river, and the engine was in the river 30 days.

THE ACCIDENT OF WHICH I wrote was several years later. The picture shows the engine lying on its side on dry ground, with no water near, and the freight cars, partly derailed, stand upright. That old N. P. track along the river was a treacherous bit of line. It was away down on the lower bank and passengers reached the train by means of a long stairway back of the old passenger station. The track was soft much of the time and was continually sliding toward the river.

ANENT EXEMPTIONS FROM CERTAIN forms of taxation granted to men in military service, a correspondent writes as follows:

"One of my boys owning an auto entered the army in May. He did not have time even to try to sell his car, and if his service time were to be but one year he preferred to keep his car, not to sell it at a loss. I have one other boy who has worked for others and needed a car of his own. He is helping me now, but we have no assurance that he will not be called into the army on the next draft. There will then be two idle cars on hand.



Davies

\* \* \*

"SINCE THE ABOVE PROBABLY can be duplicated in hundreds of cases I draw it to your attention. I think boys that willingly accept their duty to serve their country one or more years should be excused from paying license fees on cars standing idle for the duration of the service. I am not interested in this from the standpoint of my own sons alone, but because similar facts must exist in thousands of other cases."

\* \* \*

THE GREATER NORTH DAKOTA association has just issued a directory of North Dakota industries and manufactures which should prove of great convenience both to business firms in the state and to those outside the state who have occasion to transact business in North Dakota. The material is classified by subjects, agricultural implements, building materials, etc., and also by counties, and an alphabetical index, facilitates reference. The association has performed a useful subject in preparing this directory.

\* \* \*

IN THE ABOVE PARAGRAPH I mentioned the index of the booklet described. One of my pet grievances is that so many books which ought to be useful for reference are not indexed. Instead of an index one finds a table of contents with the material unclassified either alphabetically or in any other way. Hence, when one wishes to find a particular article he has to go down the table of contents from the beginning, inspecting each field, and the chances are that he will skip just the thing he wants. It's a nuisance.

\* \* \*

I FIND THAT MY COMPLAINT about the inclusion of untranslated for-

eign-language expressions in what should be popular works of reference has appealed to several readers. One writes:

"I think there ought to be a law against the use of foreign sentences without translation in such works as cyclopedias. When I read in a certain article that Aristotle said thus and so, and then run across several lines of what I suppose are Greek letters, but which to me are merely hen-tracks I feel that I have been cheated. If Aristotle said something on that subject which is considered worth putting in the book why don't they tell me what it was that he said and put it in language that I can understand?"

\* \* \*

I SUPPOSE THE USE OF CERTAIN native words and phrases in the language of primitive peoples gives a certain flavor to novels dealing with out-of-the-way parts of the world, but that can be, and often is, overdone. Use of such expressions without intimation of their meaning is an abomination. Where such terms are used a glossary helps, but it is a nuisance to have to keep turning to the back of the book to find out what it is that one is reading about.

\* \* \*

MARK TWAIN DEALT WITH THIS subject in a very effective way when he burlesqued the whole practice. He wrote an article dealing with happenings in one of the western states and he filled it full of wierd expressions purporting to be in some Indian language, Choctaw, I believe. When one got through reading it he hadn't the faintest idea what it was about. Neither had Mark. Perhaps some others interlard their articles with unintelligible stuff in order to conceal their lack of meaning.



WITH REFERENCE TO THE PICTURE of the wrecked Northern Pacific train of which I have a photograph, it has been suggested that this was a wreck



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that occurred just after the spring flood of 1897. At that time a freight engine hauling several cars was derailed because the flood had softened the road bed. The roadbed remained so soft for some time after the wreck that a wrecker could not be gotten to the spot. In order that other trains might pass a loop was built around the wreck. The flood itself had covered

that low track with many feet of water and for some time Northern Pacific trains were routed through the city over the Great Northern tracks.

\* \* \*

I HAVE ON MY DESK A COPY OF the Chicago Record-Herald of September 14, 1901, loaned by Alex McKenzie of Kempton. The paper is an interesting one, as it is one of a special edition issued to record the death of President McKinley, one of the three presidents of the United States to die at the hands of an assassin.

\* \* \*

IT WILL BE REMEMBERED THAT President McKinley was shot while standing on the platform from which he had just delivered an address at the Pan-American exposition at Buffalo. He lingered for a few days, for a little time it was thought that he might recover, but unfavorable conditions developed and he died in the early morning of September 14. The nation was plunged into mourning, and as a token of respect the exposition at which he had spoken was closed for the rest of that week, all the

illumination was turned off, all visitors were asked to leave, the gates were closed and the grounds were left in darkness.

\* \* \*

LEON CZOLGOSZ, THE ASSASSIN, was a young man who had brooded over what he thought were grievances of the common people against government, and although he had never met the president and had suffered no injury at his hands, he attacked the head of the state as an emblem of almost everything that he had come to hate. In due course he was tried and executed.

\* \* \*

THE SPECIAL EDITION OF THE Chicago paper was prepared in unusual form. It is a four-page sheet, with the first and last pages devoted to accounts of the president's last hours and death. All the column rules on the first page are turned, so as to give each column the black border of mourning. The articles include statements from many distinguished men expressing sorrow and sympathy and giving appreciative estimates of the character of the dead leader.

\* \* \*

THE TWO INSIDE PAGES OF THE issue tell of the other two presidential assassinations, those of President Lincoln and President Garfield. Those pages are reprints from pages of the Chicago papers which had been predecessors of the Record-Herald. The story of the assassination of Lincoln tells also of the excitement caused throughout the nation by the tragedy. The recent war had left the country in a state of tension, but for a time it appeared that there would be a series of bloody riots in which persons even suspected of southern sympathies would be killed, although they had no connection with the murder and wished only for peace and the restoration of order. There were some riots, but they were relatively unimportant, but the government was left in a state of confusion which lasted for years.

\* \* \*

EVERYONE WHO HAS TAKEN AN interest in the Artists course will be pleased to learn that the entire house has been sold out for this season. Not only have all the regular seats been sold, but seats on the stage for some 100 persons have been sold, and there is a large waiting list of persons who have registered for places should any become available by reason of removal from the city or other enforced absence. This large sale is a gratifying token of appreciation of the efforts of the management through the past years to bring to this territory musical and other entertainment of the highest class. It is evidence, also, of growing appreciation of what is good in entertainment, and in sponsoring these several series the Community Music association has performed a valuable service to the entire territory which is within reach of Grand Forks. It is not only the people of the city who benefit, but the influence of these programs extends to the smaller cities and villages and to the farms of a wide territory. The management is to be congratulated, and so are the people who have been fortunate enough to obtain seats.



IN AN ARTICLE IN COLLIER'S ENTITLED "Comeback in North Dakota," the editor refers to the impression that prevailed in many quarters a few years ago that drouth had become a fixture in North Dakota and other Great Plains states, making the area uninhabitable. The magazine then quotes the following which it had just received from Governor Moses of North Dakota:

"Beginning with 1937, and throughout the three succeeding years, there was a slow but marked improvement . . . This year, 1941, North Dakota is harvesting one of the greatest crops in its history, estimated to be 135,000,000 bushels of wheat—and with that goes an abundant crop of feed, with barley and oats, and a splendid hay crop. There is more moisture in the soil than at any time during the last 10 years. The pastures are in better condition than they have been since the late twenties. The economic condition, not only of the individual farmers and citizens, but of the state and its subdivisions, is greatly improved."

\* \* \*

COMMENTING FURTHER ON THIS changed outlook and on the setting aside of the last week in September as a week of appreciation and thanksgiving, the magazine says:

\* \* \*

"ACCORDINGLY, NORTH DAKOTA set aside the last week in September as a week of thanksgiving.

"We'll echo those thanks wholeheartedly, not only for North Dakota but also for the other states which are going to join the Dust Bowl but didn't. We'll also express the earnest hope that soil conservation and antierosion work will be carried on persistently up and down the nation from now on.

"And we'll permit ourselves still another snicker at the contingent of chronic hystericals that thinks this country is sunk when a wave of adversity hits it. Certainly the North Dakota crisis was tough. But the North Dakotans were tougher."

\* \* \*

SOIL CONSERVATION AND ANTI-erosion are not recent inventions, nor are the benefits to be derived from the recent discoveries. Good farmers have carried on such work for generations, and they have been rewarded with big crops in good years and fair crops in years when their less progressive neighbors had none. Unfavorable weather conditions for several years tended to focus attention more intensively on better farming methods, and that is all to the good. But back of it all is the fact that North Dakota is not a state of permanent drouth, as some calamity howlers would have had us believe.

\* \* \*

NORTH DAKOTA RECEIVED SOME publicity during the drouth years. The state is now receiving publicity of another and more desirable kind now that the drouth is broken. And in another field the state is being widely publicized by the



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speeches of Senator Nye. A reader sends in a page from the New York World-Telegram with the following editorial under the caption "Mr. Nye's New Logic."

\* \* \*

"ACCUSTOMED AS WE ARE TO EC-centricities and inconsistencies on the part of public men, we are nonetheless flabbergasted by Senator Nye.

"Some days ago Mr. Nye made certain remarks about the movie industry which appeared to us, and to others, to be a calculated attempt to incite anti-Semitic feeling against Hollywood. Along with Colonel Lindbergh, who made a blanket indictment of the Jews as warmongers, he was quickly showered with criticism. Among those who denounced the invidious references to the Jews was Wendell Willkie.

"Now comes Mr. Nye, neither bloody nor bowed, but full of pious indignation. It is Mr. Willkie, he says, who is guilty of raising the racial issue!

"Here is something new in dialectics. Under the Nye formula, not he who utters a slander but he who challenges the slanderer is the culprit. It is a conception that has the merit of originality, but it could hardly be said to make sense."

\* \* \*

SINCE THE PUBLICATION OF THE above comment Senator Nye has publicly and specifically indorsed the Lindbergh statement listing the Jews as one of the three major elements which are leading this nation into war. And, immediately following that indorsement Mr. Nye assured the world that he is not anti-Semitic. I believe it was not Senator Nye, although apparently it might have been, who closed an abusive letter with these words:

"You are a liar and a perjurer and a black-hearted villain. With every assurance of my sincere regard and undying affection for you, I am, yours cordially."

**WHY DID THE BOTTOM DROP OUT OF** all the markets, grain, livestock and securities, last week? Market news articles attribute the tumble to unfavorable war news from the Russian front, accentuated by cabinet changes in Japan which appeared likely to complicate still further our relations with that country. There is no reason to doubt the influence of these causes on the markets, but the manner in which operated, and in which similar causes operate in other cases, is not quite as clear as it may seem.

\* \* \*

**THE SIMPLE AND EASY** explanation of a precipitous drop in market prices is that "the interests" have taken advantage of a critical moment to start a panic by the circulation of false rumors and perhaps offering a few key securities for sale at cut prices. Then, if the psychological conditions are right, the speculative public follows suit, everybody wants to sell and nobody wants to buy, and prices tumble. Then, when it is supposed that the bottom has about been reached, these same "interests" secretly start buying, the market recovers, and the "interests" reap fat profits.

\* \* \*

**THERE HAS BEEN WIDE POPULAR AC-**ceptance of that sort of explanation for market changes, and no matter what may be the nature of facts to the contrary, the belief is so firmly grounded in many minds that it remains unshaken. The wicked "interests" are responsible for it all. Actually, while the operations of large dealers here and there may contribute to the creation of conditions which result in panics, there is no evidence that panics are ever planned. On the contrary, the market panic appears to be like any other panic, due to the working of a sort of mob spirit which may develop with or without cause, and which induces people to join in a stampede without knowing why.

\* \* \*

**THERE HAS BEEN NOTHING IN THE WAR** news to warrant any sudden change of attitude on the part of the American people. We have been kept well informed of the progress of the fighting on the Russian front. Day after day we have read of the progress of the German armies, progress which has been interrupted and delayed by the fierce resistance of the Russians, but which, nevertheless, has carried the invading armies far-



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ther forward. There has been no reason to suppose that the movement would soon be checked.

\* \* \*

**THE JAPANESE CABINET CHANGE IS BUT** one of several that have occurred of late, and it has been apparent all along that Japanese affairs were in a state of flux out of which anything might come. The present change is toward the militaristic side, and it is the sort of change for which there has been every reason to be prepared. Nothing has occurred in Europe or Asia which would warrant anything more drastic than a moderate readjustment of market prices. But the rabble became excited and a general stampede followed.

\* \* \*

**STRENUOUS EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE** to bring wheat prices up to what is called parity, although "parity" is a term which may mean almost anything, depending on the point from which one starts. If any period be taken as the ideal, in which the price of everything in relation to the price of everything else is just right, that blissful condition can never remain fixed for more than a few minutes. Because of conditions which no human effort can control, the price of sugar will not remain constant in terms of potatoes, the price of wheat will be higher or lower temporarily relative to the price of beef cattle, and steel, coal and copper will vary in price in relation to wheat, cotton and tobacco. "Parity" is something that never can be attained and maintained short of putting all industry in a strait-jacket.

\* \* \*

**SENATOR WHEELER THINKS THAT JAP-**an will not be crazy enough to make war on the United States. There is no probability that Japan will send a fleet to bombard Seattle or an army to invade California. But Japanese militarists have aims that are in direct conflict with those of the United States. Japan has designs on the East Indies, and it has been made rather clear that if she attempts to carry out those designs she will have to fight the United States. Present prospects are that Japan is now contemplating a move against Russia by way of Siberia, a situation which undoubtedly was discussed at the recent secret conference of the president with political, army and navy leaders. If Japan attempts to invade Russia by way of the back door, what will the United States do about it? Certainly such a move could not be regarded with indifference in this country. How far are we going to go in opposing it is a question involving almost unlimited possibilities.



SOMEONE SENDS ME A NEWSPAPER clipping, apparently from Greeley, Colorado, although there is no way of identifying it positively, which tells of the return to that place, wherever it is, of a Sheriff Anderson, who reports having seen more antelopes on his trip in North Dakota and South Dakota than he had seen since the very early days in Colorado and Wyoming.

\* \* \*

THE SHERIFF IS quoted as saying:

"They are in northwest South Dakota, and southwest North Dakota, north of the Black Hills. Big herds may be seen from the road grazing on tall grass. One resident of the area told me that the last count made had shown 12,000 in that particular district. There is no open season, though one is being talked of."

\* \* \*

ANOTHER CORRESPONDENT sends in the following want ad clipped from the Thief River Falls Times:

"For Sale—During the next five weeks I shall dispose of at my leisure, 9 cows at the Signe Johnson farm, 13 miles north of Grygla: one 3-yr.-old Silver Roan cow of exquisite beauty; 1 aristocratic, affectionate black cow, 4 yrs. old; 2 extra good Holstein cows, 9 yrs. old; 1 heavy producing Shorthorn cow, 9 yrs. old; 4 good young Shorthorn cows. All are bred by a short, blocky, beautiful copper colored shorthorn bull. Some to freshen in November and December, others later. Only property owners and those who can give a cow a good home, something better than a dirty, stinky, chilly shack to live in will be considered. Also one Maytag gas engine, only \$18.00. The cattle are good and the price must be good. Inga Johnson, Rt. 3, Grygla, Minn. 41c."

That advertisement has original features which entitle it to re-publication, which is given without charge and in the hope that Mr. Johnson will find someone who will give his affectionate black cow the good home to which she is entitled, with all the surroundings of refinement to which, undoubtedly, she has been accustomed.

\* \* \*

STILL ANOTHER FRIEND HANDS me the following, clipped from the Minneapolis Journal:

"Many a dull speech and many a heavy tome have been sent out from Washington, postage free under the congressional frank. But the all-time record for weight was broken by isolationist Senator Gerald P. Nye when, under his congressional frank, he mailed a stone.



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Mrs. Nye comes from Iowa Falls, Iowa, and a zealous lady of a Methodist church there has been put in charge of making a collection of stones — one from each state and colonial possession of the United States—for the construction of a fireplace in the church.

So she wrote to Senator Nye and asked if he would contribute a stone from his state of North Dakota. In due time it came—a nice big boulder, postage free, under Nye's personal frank."

\* \* \*

I SHOULD BE INCLINED TO QUESTION the statement that the stone shipped by the senator breaks the all-time record for weight. It seems to me that I have read of sets of furniture being mailed under congressional frank, but I may be wrong about that. Anyway, the idea of using the frank to save carrying charges on a stone sent as a personal gift for a church fireplace is one that wouldn't have occurred to everyone.

\* \* \*

ONE OF THE INTERESTING ARTICLES in the September number of "Minnesota History," the official publication of the Minnesota Historical society, is one dealing with the Hudson's Bay company's posts established in Minnesota during the days when the northwest fur trade was at its height. The article is by Grace Lee Nute, who has carried on intensive research in the early history of Minnesota and has contributed several valuable articles on that subject.



AN ENTIRELY NEW TRANSLATION of the famous journal in which La Verendrye, fur trader and explorer, recorded his journey through this part of the then unknown northwest is published in the current number of the Historical Quarterly, official publication of the North Dakota Historical society. The translator, Dr. Henry E. Haxo of the department of romance languages at the University of North Dakota, obtained a photostatic copy of the original journal, which is in the archives of the Canadian government, and from this, together with maps and other important sources,



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he made a complete translation which is free from numerous errors which appear in earlier translations. This makes available to students of northwestern history accurate information concerning the first real exploration made of a vast territory which has since become the scene of a new civilization.

\* \* \*

BY MEANS OF THIS TRANSLATION new light is shed on the migrations of several of the Indian tribes which had inhabited the great plains and the Turtle mountains long before the arrival of the white man. It has been possible, also to locate the sites of Indian villages which were visited by the explorer. The legendary Indian was a nomad, living altogether by hunting and fishing, and having no settled place of abode. Actually, several of the western tribes had their permanent villages and their cultivated fields where they grew corn and tobacco as well as several other garden crops. Dr. Haxo's work clears up many ambiguities in former translations and makes more understandable the record of explorations which made accessible the first comprehensive story of Indian life in this area of the northwest.

\* \* \*

ANOTHER QUARTERLY ARTICLE of more than passing interest is that descriptive of the DeMores historic site at Medora, by Superintendent Russell Reid of the North Dakota park service. The article is especially timely because of the donation of the DeMores chateau to the state of North Dakota by the son and heir of the Marquis DeMores, and of the son's recent visit to the property.

THE MARQUIS DEMORES WAS ONE of the most colorful figures of the northwest in a period marked by high adventure. Superintendent Reid's article gives an excellent summary of his North Dakota career, of the reasons for his settlement on the Little Missouri and of the dream which he had of a great packing plant which was to make available the raw material of the western cattle ranges for food without incurring the cost of transportation back and forth. The enterprise did not prove a commercial success, but that fact does not detract from the adventurous spirit of the man who tried to realize the dream.

\* \* \*

THE QUARTERLY ARTICLE describes in considerable detail the DeMores chateau and the steps which have been taken to renovate it. The work of deterioration has been checked and many repairs have been made, all with a view to the preservation of the mansion in its original condition, as nearly as that is possible. There is given a detailed map of the entire estate. The chateau is only a stone's throw off the main highway, No. 10, and it is one of the historic features which should become more widely known, so that the attention of tourists may be directed to it. There are few historic sites which will better repay a visit.

\* \* \*

ANOTHER INTERESTING QUARTERLY article gives the text of an address delivered by Judge A. G. Burr at the dedication of the Butte St. Paul memorial in 1933. The address is a valuable contribution to the historical records of northern North Dakota, and it is fortunate that it has now been given publication in this permanent form.

IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF Washington, D. C., the practice has been for the children to salute the flag with the customary gesture of the extended hand. The school board recently ordered the practice discontinued because the salute is similar to that which goes with the "Heil Hitler" in Nazi Germany. This order has drawn a protest from a national D. A. R. committee which expresses regret that any of our accepted ways should be changed for such a cause.

In like fashion the use of the swastika in this country has fallen into disrepute, and people have become chary of using that symbol lest they be suspected of being Hitler partisans. Who is this man Hitler, anyway, that he should be permitted to monopolize signs and symbols that were in familiar and honorable use before he was born and before his evil philosophy was dreamed of? The gesture of the extended hand as a sign of friendly greeting is as old, almost, as the human race. The swastika was a familiar Greek figure. It was in use in Mexico nobody knows how many centuries before Columbus. I'm not in favor of giving Hitler a monopoly of anything.



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\* \* \*

WHEN YOU ARE DRIVING AT night you see a single bright light several miles ahead of you. Presently it begins to look fuzzy, and as it comes nearer what appeared to be one light resolves itself into the two headlights of an approaching car. Many years ago astronomers observed a brilliant speck of light in the sky and listed it as a star. It was so listed until 1922, when Dr. John Stanley Plaskett, a Canadian astronomer, built a 72-inch telescope and with it discovered that what had been supposed to be a single star was really a pair of twins, revolving around each other once in 14,414 of our days, and a mere matter of 55,000,000 miles apart. Twins 50 million miles apart! Makes your head swim!

\* \* \*

SPEAKING OF MAKING ONE'S head swim: Many years ago a young woman of my acquaintance had a maid named Mattie. Mattie was a good girl, strong, faithful and willing but intellectually just about blank. She seemed incapable of understanding why anything was done, or why it was important that anything should be done right end to. She was forever getting things into a mess. One day my friend in desperation said to her: "Oh, Mattie, why are you always getting things tangled up so? Why don't you think? Don't you ever think?" "No," replied poor Mattie. "Sometimes I try, but it makes my head swim."

\* \* \*

IN ENGLAND THEY ARE RATIONING clothing, that is, there are issued to each person coupon to cover a year's purchases of clothing. When a purchase is made coupons must be surrendered, so many for a coat, so many for a dress, hat or pair of shoes, and so on. When the coupons are gone there can be no more such purchases until the end of the year

when a new batch of coupons will be issued. Apparently the coupons are transferable, for a London item says that many of the men are turning over coupons to their wives, and instead of being used for the purchase of coats and trousers they are used for the purchase of skirts and bonnets. Whether or not any of the women are similarly generous to their husbands is not stated.

\* \* \*

THE FEDERAL FACT-FINDING board appointed to collect data in respect to the wage controversy involving railway unions and the respective managements, has offered to act as arbitrator in the dispute. The managers have expressed willingness to accept such arbitration. The unions have refused. They have already voted to strike if settlement is not effected. Suppose the unions should refuse to abate their demands and the managers refuse to grant them and the strike takes effect, tying up the country's transportation in one of the critical periods of its history. Would that bring things to a head, and in what manner?



## FLOTSAM:

SOMEWHERE IN ENGLAND — A woman entered an area which was fenced off because of the presence of a time bomb. She rocked the bomb with her foot and was fined four dollars for doing so. For a similar offense another woman was fined two dollars. The bombs didn't go off. If they had the women wouldn't have been fined.

\* \* \*

DOODLETOWN, N. Y. —The Doodletown school has two teachers and five pupils. The district has a \$40,000 schoolhouse and has paid \$3,000 a year in salaries for the two teachers. More than half the revenues for salaries and other expenses, plus payments on the building have come from taxes on the Bear Mountain bridge across the Hudson. The bridge has been sold to the state and is no longer taxable, and nobody knows how payments are to be kept up hereafter.

\* \* \*

M'KEESPORT, PA.—MRS. AUDREY Wardropper, aged 20, had one child, a boy. She wanted the next one to be a girl, but it, also, was a boy. So the disappointed mother shot herself.

\* \* \*

STOCKHOLM—THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT announces that no Nobel peace prizes will be awarded this year. Too much shooting going on.

\* \* \*

NEW YORK — A WHITE MARBLE bust of Jenny Lind, which has been in the New York Aquarium for the past 20 years has been moved to the museum of the city of New York. The famous Swedish nightingale sang in the Aquarium building when it was known as Castle Garden, and the statue is a memento of her appearance there. The building is being demolished to make



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room for approaches to the new tunnel and the thousands of fish which were kept there have been distributed to various zoos.

\* \* \*

NEW YORK — ARMY DIETITIANS have it figured out that one can of soup per day is enough for 200 men. It's a 2½ gallon can and the soup is so concentrated that a little can be made to go a long way. Other foods are being concentrated in similar fashion, among them potatoes, cabbage, eggs, corned beef, beans and coffee.

\* \* \*

NEW YORK—The JURY WHICH IS to try Lepke and two associates on the charge of murder has been selected after sessions lasting five weeks. Several of the sessions ran far into the night. All to select twelve honest men and true who are considered fit to weigh the testimony of witnesses and decide on what is true and what is false.

\* \* \*

OTTAWA—WALTER P. SELLAR, OF Montreal, appointed as a Dollar-a-year man to direct the Canadian tourist industry under war conditions, has resigned, saying "my training and experience have accustomed me to a larger measure of action than it seems possible for me to exercise in my present position." Mr. Sellar seems to have had the naive notion that his job was to get things done.

\* \* \*

CAIRO, EGYPT — ARMY MEDICAL authorities have received from the United States ten pounds of a drug essential in the treatment of maladies to which soldiers are subjected. The department ran out of the drug and no supply was available in Britain. An appeal was sent to Washington, and a shipment was sent across the American continent by plane, thence across the Pacific and to Cairo by way of Singapore. The little shipment was flown half way around the world.

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HAMILTON, BERMUDA — BECAUSE of war conditions Bermuda is likely to become the center of the diamond export trade. South African diamond interests are arranging for such a shift. Bermuda already is humming with war activities of many other kinds.

MISS ELIZABETH BURNHAM, former Grand Forks Y. W. C. A. secretary who spent the greater part of the past year in association work in Istanbul, arrived at San Francisco about a week ago and is making several stops on her way east. En route from Sydney, Australia, to Honolulu on the American steamer Monterey, she wrote to local friends giving some of her impressions of Australia. Her letter reads in part as follows:

"Though I am almost the same as home being on an American ship, I must write you one more letter, giving you the last chapter of this episode. By the time I reach Honolulu, I will have spent one hundred days of this last 14 months since I left America, with a boat as my home sailing the ocean blue. In all this time we have had few really rough days and at long last it seems I have learned to take the rocking and moderately rough days in my stride without going down. Upon boarding the Monterey it seemed we had entered a palace with its perfect cleanliness, its pleasing scheme of decoration, its spacious cabins; clean towels, napkins, and table linen every other minute and every meal a banquet. Those first days I must shamefully confess I was sorry I could not eat more when meal time came for everything tasted so good. Not that I have ever been really hungry but having everything prepared the traditional American way was almost too much. The troop ship aboard which we made the trip from Egypt to Australia had been a beautiful ship, but the troops which it had carried had taken off most of the corners, all the polish and broken up the deck chairs as well as some of the inside furnishings. One of the men who had seen the American troop ships during the last war said ours were in no better condition! How we did long for a deck chair on that trip, especially those hot days and nights. We could only hang over the rail or sit on the deck.



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"MY FOUR WEEKS STAY IN AUSTRALIA was both interesting and enjoyable from start to finish. Parts of it seem like a dream now. The start was having my picture put in the paper by the local Y. W. C. A. That brought an invitation to have luncheon at Admiralty House with Her Excellency, the Lady Gowrie, whose husband is governor-general of Australia. Her Excellency is a most charming lady and is genuinely interested in the Y. W. C. A. work in the Middle East—well and just everywhere. That led to an invitation to a cocktail party at Sir Alfred Davidson's home. A few days later I received a note from Sir Alfred's secretary saying Sir Alfred had placed a car at my disposal any time I would choose so that I might see Sydney and the surrounding country. I invited Jessie Martin and Mr. Field, my Istanbul friends to share this pleasure. We were off on a day flooded in sunshine with a chauffeur guide who knew and was interested in every cove and head land around Sydney's magnificent harbor with its countless indentations. Then we went up the coast where white sheltered beaches, rocky cliffs and more beauty awaited us. A delicious lunch had been ordered for us at Palm Beach. We came back through "bush" country and lovely flower bedecked suburban districts. Much to the disappointment of our guide, who seemed to feel even more deeply than I did about it we returned to the Y. W. C. A. at 3:00, because I had promised to speak at the weekly meeting of the large group of women whose husbands and sons are in service over seas. We appreciated this trip all the more because petrol (gasoline) is very scarce and rationed.

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"LADY DAVIDSON TOOK ME TO A Comforts Fund Womens Council meeting where I met ladies and more ladies. I was introduced as a special guest and an American. The Davidsons invited one of the Sydney Y. W. C. A. staff members and me to their home in the Blue Mountains for the week-end. They have a lovely week-end and vacation home, steam heated and you don't know how to appreciate

this until you have lived away from America. The spacious garden with its array of early spring blooms was Sir Alfred's hobby and he made every tree and shrub interesting. We had a drive through the beautiful Blue Mountains in his gas producing car. Now that petrol is rationed many people are using charcoal burning-gas producing units on their regular cars. It works quite well, but it takes a man in attendance as keeping the fire burning and properly cleaned out is a dirty job. Sir Alfred is president of the Bank of New South Wales, one of the largest banks in Australia. At his secretary's invitation, I talked to about one hundred of the women employees. They were an interested group and I enjoyed meeting many of them individually afterwards as well as seeing something of the bank.

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"THE AUSTRALIAN AMERICAN CO-operative association arranged a reception for our entire group of about one hundred Americans. Through the Y. W. C. A. where I spoke to several groups, I met more Australians. It was fun to go shopping or sight seeing as you always found friends immediately. I never dreamed we had kin folks who were so eager to claim relationship and who look to America for magazines, books, ideas, ideals, the American style in eating and dressing—yes the latest American craze what ever it happens to be. They feel closer to us than the English. In comparison to the English, they surpass us in informality. If any of you meet an Australian, treat him as a friend for my sake and you will like him for his own.

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"AS SYDNEY ISN'T ALL OF AUSTRALIA I had to see other parts, though it meant missing some nice invitations in Sydney. As none of my American friends for one reason or another felt the way I did, I took off by myself, but did not lack for friends along the way because I was in Australia and because I was connected with the Y. W. C. A.; I took the train to Melbourne stopping off a day en route at Canberra, the capitol. It is one of the most unique cities in the world for it is like a huge landscaped garden with houses, stores, filling stations, circular streets and parks that all fit into a general plan laid out and started 28 years ago by an American engineer when there was nothing on that mountain enclosed plain. In that spring time of the year down South of the Equator many of the drives were lined with alternating evergreens and pink flowering plums, others with trees of the native yellow wattle fairly dripping in blooms, Oaks and other trees come to the front in other seasons of the year. Eight million trees have been planted in that garden city. Of course, I was taken through their beautiful new Parliament buildings, so many things proudly admitted to be made on an American pattern. At the Y. W. C. A. that evening a big girls hockey club dinner was being held and I talked to them about their friends in Y. W. C. A. work in Egypt and of course did not leave Turkey and its girls out of the picture.



**THERE IS MORE OR LESS CLAMORING** just now for a British invasion of the continent in order to draw German troops from the eastern front and lessen the pressure on Russia. Similarly at a football game there are many in the bleachers who know just how the game should be played and who demand a line drive instead of the forward pass for which the signal is given. Perhaps they are right, but sometimes the players know what they are doing better than the spectators do.

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**UNDOUBTEDLY THE LAND-**ing of a large British force on the continent would create a diversion decidedly helpful to Russia. The problem is to land such a force and keep it from being mopped up after it is landed. In two years of intensive effort, backed by the most powerful and most thoroughly trained army in the world, immensely superior in its land mechanization, and especially in its air force, Hitler has been unable to invade Britain.

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**PROBABLY THE BRITISH COULD LAND A** relatively small force somewhere in the continent, but a small force would be useless and would be quickly wiped out. A real army, capable of standing its ground, would require not only men, but guns, tanks, food, clothing, tents and all the paraphernalia of war, and it would require an unbroken line of communication and supply in order to be able to operate or even to exist. Failure of such an expedition would leave Britain itself wide open. From the observation point of a desk chair some four thousand miles from the scene it seems that such an attempt just at this time would be playing right into Hitler's hands.

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**CRITICS OF THE BRITISH ADMINISTRA-**tion say that the war cannot be won without taking chances, which is probably true. And it may be worth while to remember that Winston Churchill, the head of the British government, has never been known for excessive prudence, certainly not for timidity. In his personal career and in his public policies he has always exhibited boldness and directness. He has never shrunk from taking a chance when the object to be attained seemed worth the risk, but he has shown no inclination to



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commit suicide in person or to launch his country deliberately on a suicidal enterprise.

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**IT IS SAID THAT A LARGE PROPORTION** of the men in the American army are anything but enthusiastic over "playing soldier." Probably the statement is correct. Few men are enthusiastic over "playing" at anything except when they engage in sport voluntarily and frankly for the sake of the sport itself. Men do become intensely interested in golf, and football, and baseball, but those are distinctively games, and they are played as such. But when vigorous young men are required to go through the motions of attacking a mythical enemy, perhaps with imitation weapons and "destroy" bridges which are still left standing, and "capture" positions in which they are not interested, it is small wonder that they are inclined at times to regard the whole thing as a sort of boresome joke.

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**DRILL AND FIELD EXERCISES OF ALL** kinds are necessary for many purposes. Inexperienced men must be trained to respond quickly to orders, for in actual combat minutes may be decisive. They must learn to handle weapons quickly and accurately. They must learn how to conduct themselves when moving in large bodies. Not only must enlisted men undergo this sort of training, but officers of all ranks must be tested and seasoned. Under conditions simulating actual warfare as nearly as possible they must demonstrate their efficiency, or lack of it, in handling troops, from companies to divisions and army corps. They must be given experience which will enable them to avoid errors such as they would otherwise be likely to make. And even though this "playing soldier" may at times be wearisome and seem purposeless, it is better that it should be gained now, with minimum risk than that enlisted men and officers alike should learn the necessary lessons while they are being mowed down needlessly by enemy fire.

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**UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES WAR IS A** brutal thing. It becomes nothing short of murder when men are sent into battle, untrained and inexperienced, as they have been in some other wars. If the men who are not in the army are ever called on to face a real enemy, they will be glad that in "playing soldier" they gained experience which will be invaluable to them in actual combat.

FOLLOWING IS THE CONCLUSION of the letter written by Miss Elizabeth Burnham en route to the United States from Australia by way of New Zealand, the South Pacific islands and Hawaii. Her voyage was to be broken by a stop of 10 days at Honolulu.

"In Melbourne, I met the families of two of the Australian girls with whom I worked and played in Egypt. They were so eager to hear first hand news about their daughters who are doing such splendid work with the British Y. W. C. A. War Service. I enjoyed them greatly and it was a pleasure to tell these families about their daughters and I had a few movies of them at work to show them. Dr. Sweet, vice president of the World's Y. W. C. A., planned a reception at which I spoke. I had lunch with the president of the Melbourne Association whose other guests were heads of women's organizations doing war work, I dined and talked with other Y. W. C. A. people who were eager for news of the Middle East and wanted to know about Turkey too. There was a sight seeing trip to the Dondenong mountains and another through the wide streets of Melbourne and around its lovely parks and beaches with a new secretary who is going to the Middle East to help Miss Begg. Those three days in Melbourne were filled to the brim! I took a four-day conducted motor tour back to Sydney by the Prince's Highway along the Victoria and New South Wales coast line. My Australian companions in their friendly way helped me see everything along the way. There were strange and beautiful flowers, trees and birds. The driver got out in the pouring rain one afternoon to pick me a war-atah, a gorgeous large red flower only native to Australia, that I might take to America. We went through "bush" country where there was nothing but the stately gum trees for miles and miles. We skirted breath taking beauty spots along the coast, dipped down into fern filled glens, through little villages where horses and sulkies were parked with the automobiles. We saw countless butter factories in the dairying region and "stations" where the spring lambs gambled over the green hills. Huge, beautiful draft horses were seen more often than tractors doing the work in the fields.

"Upon returning to Sydney, I had one day before sailing to pack and finish my official checking out of the country. They made the checking out as easy as possible and several officials said they did not think Americans should be considered aliens!

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"BECAUSE OF WAR RESTRICTIONS, I could not let the New Zealand Y. W. C. A. people know when our boat was stopping in Auckland and they could not find out when a boat was coming from that end. Miss Begg who has charge of all British Y. W. C. A. work in the Middle East is a New Zealander and wanted me



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to tell them about the work in Egypt. Upon going to the Association the moment our boat docked, I found an invitation from the president of the Y. W. C. A. for a sight-seeing trip through Auckland, out to the mountains and to her home for high tea for myself and two of my Beirut Y. W. C. A. friends. I shall never forget that view from the mountain, of the city, the fringed harbor and the volcanic mountainous islands on one side and turning to the other, the thickly wooded hills of native evergreens of every shade and the gulf of the Tasman sea. Which is the most beautiful harbor in the world? I just could not say!

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"THE NEXT MORNING MRS. WEST, president of the Beirut Y. W. C. A. and I had morning coffee with quite a group of the Association people and Miss Begg's friends. We both talked about the Middle East. I liked the New Zealanders too and wished I could have had a longer time with them. They follow the English pattern more closely than the Australians. Our boat pulled away from the dock promptly at 2 P.M. and we were off to the South Sea Islands.

"Our next stop for six hours was at Suva on the Fiji Islands. We took a sight seeing trip to a mountain lookout where we could see the surf breaking on the coral reef which encircles the island. Palm, cocoanut and fern trees with luxuriant tropical vegetation of every kind covered the hills and mountains making it quite a paradise of beauty. We visited a native village with its bamboo and thatched huts, clean inside with fresh woven mats on the floor. The smiling natives have fine physiques with shocks of standing up hair that is a marvel. Cutting hair into different shapes must be a real art—something like trimming hedges I would think.

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"MUCH TO THE DISAPPOINTMENT of everyone, no one was allowed to go ashore at our next stop, Pago Pago on the Samoa Islands for several cases of measles and mumps had broken out among the Australian and New Zealand airmen aboard ship. The harbor, miniature in size and completely encircled by young mountains carpeted with green foliage was a never to be forgotten beauty spot. The Samoans in native and European dress were down to the boat to greet us. One group even did a dance for us while the rest sang and clapped the accompaniment. Some Americans who were boarding our ship were almost covered with flower leis that were hung around their necks.

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"FANTASTIC RUMORS RISE AND swell among the passengers and crew much the same as on our former boat. If you believe all of them your hair might be standing on end most of the time. No doubt some of the stories of lurking dangers have been true, but it is difficult to distinguish fact from fiction so why not throw them all over board and enjoy the trip. I still cannot tell you all I would like to about our trip, even though now I am on an American ship."



THEY HAD A PARADE ON HOME-coming day, but I didn't see it. I met one man who had seen it, but he stood on top of a building for that purpose—about the only place from which the parade was visible. I started out to see it, and I could hear it coming, for the bands were quite audible, but all that I could see of the parade was an occasional object which I took to be the top of a float. Some of those tops could be seen for quite a distance.

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LEAVING THE SIDE-walk, which was quite empty, and squeezing between two parked cars, I worked my way gradually forward until I stood in the front of the crowd that extended well toward the middle of the street. Immediately in front of me was a moving object which I took to be a float, and which, presumably, was part of the parade. What went before it and what came after I couldn't see. So I worked my way back through the crowd, between the parked cars and onto the empty sidewalk and went thence.

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NOT LONG AGO WE HAD AN ELKS parade which was pleasing and effective chiefly because it was possible to see it. On that occasion several of the down town blocks were actually cleared of cars, and the parade had the entire width of the street from curb to curb. Spectators on the sidewalks could and did see the parade in perspective instead of being confined to a glimpse of something passing immediately in front. The people who organized the parade were pleased because of the knowledge that their effort had not been wasted. They had organized a parade for people to see, and it had been seen under the most favorable conditions possible. Everybody else was pleased because there had been an opportunity to view a spectacle as it should be viewed. There were those who innocently supposed that experience with the Elks' parade would lead to the clearing of the streets for future parades, but they were mistaken. ————

Those dashes are intended to represent profanity.

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THE OTHER DAY SENATOR LEE of Oklahoma told of an experience of his in Mexico. In a restaurant in Mexico City where no English was spoken he wished to order beefsteak and mushrooms. Knowing no Spanish he sketched on a card his idea of a cow and two

mushrooms. The obliging waiter departed and presently returned with two umbrellas and a pair of tickets to the bullfight.

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THAT STORY CARRIED MY MIND back some seventy years. In the home of my grandparents where I lived was a stack of carefully preserved copies of the American Agriculturist, the paper which was founded and for many years conducted by Orange Judd, and which preceded the Orange Judd Farmer. I read those magazines through and through, and while many of the articles were over the head of a small boy, I found bushels of entertainment in others. Among other things this story was told:

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AN ENGLISH ARTIST WENT TO France, and in a Paris restaurant he thought of ordering mushrooms. Unable to make himself understood otherwise, he sketched the pictures of a mushroom on a card. The waiter responded by bringing him an umbrella. The magazine illustrated the story with good drawings of a mushroom and an umbrella, indicating that the artist had done a poor job on his sketch of a mushroom. Was Senator Lee's experience in Mexico a coincidence, or how about it?

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AN EDITORIAL IN THE ANTIGO, Wisconsin, Journal, refers to the water conservation project in the Red river valley, which includes the building of a dam at the outlet of Lake Traverse. The Journal said that this project is to impound water "for navigation of the farm lands during the dry season." The idea of "navigating" farm lands is not as far-fetched as it may seem, as quite a number of the valley farmers made their trips between house and barn last spring in rowboats.

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FURTHER ON THE WISCONSIN paper says "The Red river is not counted among the more beautiful streams of North America." From the standpoint of popular reputation that statement is correct. The trouble is that few people realize how beautiful the Red river really is. In its summer garments of green, and in the brilliant colors of autumn, the Red River of the North has a beauty all its own, a beauty that is thoroughly satisfying, although not everyone has discovered it.

SEVERAL MONTHS AGO I MADE reference in this column to the "Lake on the Mountain," a peculiar natural phenomenon near the lower end of Lake Ontario, to which my attention had been directed, and of which I had never before heard. That curiosity is near the Ontario town of Picton, which is situated on an irregular branch of the lake known as the bay of Quinte. A few hundred feet from the bay is a hill 190 feet high which is also considerably higher than any of the territory surrounding it. On the top of the hill is a little lake whose source has always been a mystery, for all the land in the vicinity slopes away from it.



Davies

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DR. G. M. WILLIAMSON OF GRAND Forks was born on a farm near Picton and in his younger days he taught school in the county. In his youth he was familiar with that strange lake, and in later years he has made many visits there. A relic of old times in his possession is a large atlas of Prince Edward county and the adjoining county of Hastings. The volume is illustrated with county and township maps and pen drawings of prominent residents of the early days and of their homes. One picture is of the lake on the mountain, with the little settlement clustered around it.

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THE LAKE IS SHOWN AS APPARENTLY about half a mile in diameter at the very top of a dome-shaped hill, with several residences around it, while 190 feet below it is the bay with several dwellings along the shore and a number of mills for which power was once provided by the overflow from the lake. Dr. Williamson says that the overflow

ceased, or almost ceased some years ago, but the water in the lake, with no visible inlet or outlet, still maintains its level and remains fresh.

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NUMEROUS THEORIES HAVE BEEN advanced concerning the origin of the lake. There is no body of water anywhere near which seems likely to supply it. One theory which has found rather general local acceptance is that the water comes through some underground fissure from Lake Erie, which is something more than 300 feet higher than Lake Ontario. If that is the explanation, the underground channel must extend the whole length of Lake Ontario and parallel it, which scarcely seems reasonable. But local observers insist that there is confirmation of this theory in the fact that whenever the water of Lake Erie, which is relatively shallow, is rendered turbid by a storm, the water of the little mountain lake is likewise turbid within a short time.

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DR. WILLIAMSON'S ATLAS IS LIKEWISE a curiosity in these days. It was published in 1878, and has detailed maps of every township, with the acreage and ownership of every farm accurately indicated. In one locality are shown the farms of the Williamson family, comprising several hundred acres.

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AN INTERESTING FEATURE OF the atlas, and one which should have historical value, is the list of patrons of the publication, several hundred in number, giving in each case the name and residence of the individual, his business, nativity, and the year in which he settled in the county. Doubtless such records are now found valuable when in the absence of official birth certificates all available information is being collected in order to establish status of citizenship.

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IN 1878, WHEN THE ATLAS WAS published, photography was crude, and photo-engraving as we have it now was practically unknown. All the hundreds of illustrations in the book of landscapes and buildings are made from pen and ink drawings. The portraits are from photographs, reproduced, apparently, by some lithographic process. The portraits seem more than quaint, seen through modern spectacles. Probably ours will seem quaint to our great-grandchildren.



I HAVE A LETTER FROM A FRIEND who has lived for many years in a medium-sized city, and who has been impressed and somewhat saddened by changes which have recently come to pass in the city which has been her home for many pleasant years. The city has been known primarily as a city of homes. It is a business center of some importance, it has a number of industrial plants, and its growth, while not spectacular, has been steady.

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Davies

THE ATMOSPHERE of the city had been one of quiet and order. Its industrial enterprises and its commercial business had developed gradually, in response to the growing needs of the territory served. Wage-earners, of whom there were several thousand, were regularly employed and had their permanent places in the life of the community, many of them owning their own homes. Schools' churches and all the institutions of cultural life were surrounded by all the elements of stability. Those whose homes were there had a feeling of permanence which they found most satisfactory.

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IN THE CRISIS THROUGH WHICH the nation is passing the city has become an important center of defense industry. Several mammoth manufacturing plants have been constructed and there has been an influx of many thousands of new employes. The entire character of the city has been changed. The newcomers are strangers, without knowledge of the ways

and traditions of the community. They do not "belong," and many of them have no desire to do so. Not only are they strangers to the community, but in the main they are strangers to each other. They have come from many and distant cities, and their immediate interest is in the opportunity for employment at good wages which has been created by the expansion of defense work. They have not yet developed an interest in the city to which they have moved, and many of them will never do so.

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IT IS EASY TO UNDERSTAND HOW disturbing this must be to those who have lived in that community for years and have taken root there. Strange faces present themselves everywhere. Noisy and garish places of entertainment have sprung up for the accommodation of the thousands of new men and women who wish to be amused. The newcomers have not adjusted themselves to the community or to each other and confusion has taken the place of order.

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THAT CITY IS NO ISOLATED CASE. In essentials its experience is being duplicated in scores of other cities. In those cities there are being created problems which are exceedingly perplexing in their immediate aspect, and involved in them are possibilities for the future of unknown magnitude and complexity. Is this war operating to change permanently the whole complexion of American life and make a mere tradition of much of the culture that millions have known and prized? Or will the feverish temperature that has been developed subside, and will some of the elements of value which seem to be disappearing be restored and strengthened? There are many such questions which are suggested by my friend's letter. They have their application, not only in her own home town, but in every large city, and in some measure in every community in the land.

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IN AN ARTICLE IN THE TULSA, Oklahoma, Tribune, the editor, Richard Lloyd Jones, asks "Why pick on North Dakota?" The writer displays a greater degree of familiarity with North Dakota's recent history than is possessed by most outsiders; but, like most outside commentators, he draws sweeping general conclusions from an incomplete assortment of facts. He draws a picture of North Dakota as a state which has only about one good crop year in seven. Within the past decade that has been true of certain sections of the state. On the basis of averages through the state's history that has not been true of any considerable section, and in the most populous and most productive part of the state there has never been a complete crop failure in any year, nor a year in which at least a fair crop was not raised. So much for the crop and weather situation.

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THE WRITER'S DISCUSSION OF crop conditions in North Dakota leads up to a discussion of some other matters. It is said that "Whatever Langer is or was . . . there is nothing in North Dakota's record that stinks to high heaven like Louisiana's." Mr. Jones doesn't see why there should be an investigation of Langer when officials eyes are closed to misdeeds in Louisiana. That is too complicated a subject for discussion here, so for the time being I pass it up.